

EMILE ZOLA, NOVELIST AND REFORMER
317

as some readers may know, resulted in Messrs. Chatto publishing nearly all the Zola translations and "revisions" attempted by Ernest Vizetelly.

In the case of a new work by a foreign author of established reputation, it is usually advisable that the translation should appear at the same time as the original; but, owing to circumstances, the success of "The Downfall" was helped materially by the earlier issue of the French volume.

Directly the latter appeared in Paris¹ Vizetelly recommended it to a few former war correspondents; and as the praise which Archibald Forbes bestowed upon Zola's work in a literary journal exercised some influence, a dozen laudatory articles soon found their way into the newspapers.

Moreover "La Debacle" created an extraordinary sensation in France, Germany, and other parts of Europe. The foreign correspondents of the English press repeatedly had occasion to refer to it, thus virtually compelling attention to the book. In Paris Zola's enemies assailed him fiercely. They wanted to know what he himself had done during the Franco-German war. The Imperialists accused him of having slandered Napoleon III. The more zealous patriots declared it was disgraceful to have written such a book, which, said they, was a mere speculation on the country's

misfortunes.

And some took particular offence at the title of "
La Delude."

¹ "LaDe'b&cle," Paris, Charpentier and Fasquelle,
1892, 18mo, 620 pages ;
one hundred and seventy-sixth thousand in 1893 ; two
hundred and seventh
thousand in 1903. Illustrated edition: Paris, Flanimarion,
n. d., 4to, 527
pages ; illustrations "by Jeannot; ninety copies on India,
Japanese, and Dutch
papers. The Bavarian Oaptain Tanera attacked the book in
"Le Figaro,"
September 19, 1892, and his communication was
reprinted by Lemerre,
8 pages, 8vo. Zola's answer to him, "Retour de Voyage," was
also published
by Lemerre, 1892, 18mo, 21 pages ; forty copies printed, all
numbered, those
bearing odd numbers being on Dutch paper.